

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

DATE DISTR. 26 May 52

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

**SOURCE**

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2. The evening "newswire" broadcast 29 March 1952 on Radio Prague included a very short statement to the effect that on that same day a new hydroelectric power plant (hydroelektrárna) on the Morava River was put into operation. The announcement gave no further details or comments. This came as somewhat of a surprise to me because although I had heard of many plans to construct hydroelectric plants in Slovakia, I never heard of any construction planned on the Morava River. It would seem, however, that the most likely location for a hydroelectric plant would be somewhere on the Lower Morava, where the current is more powerful and the channel is wider.
3. Tvorba of 27 December 1951 contained an article about the new metallurgical combine, Klement Gottwald Foundry Works, in Kuncice nad Ostravici /4948N-1818E/. This combine, according to the newspaper was soon to have its own power plant with a capacity of more than one million kw. No further details were given.

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- When I returned to Czechoslovakia [redacted] I noticed several high steel towers being constructed and anchored in concrete bases in the vicinity of Prague. One place that I saw such towers was about 15-20 km north of Prague, where they crossed the Prague-Bratislava highway. Another place where the towers were being constructed was 15 km south of Prague, near the village of Hradec Kralove highway, near the town of Sadská. I later learned that this construction was to be a high-tension electrical line, a new project included in the Five Year Plan for industrial development of Czechoslovakia. The new high tension line was to link the largest electrical power plant in Czechoslovakia, the Eprvenec power plant in Ervenice (5031N-1325E) northern Bohemia, with the new hydro-electric plants being built in Slovakia. The reason for the construction of this new line was to equalize distribution of electrical power in the country. The country of Czechoslovakia has large suppliers. In addition, in case the Ervenice power supply should fail, power plants in Slovakia could furnish the power, and vice-versa. The Ervenice power combine uses soft coal from the West-Bohemian coalfield and black coal from the Kladno region. This "balance line," which I saw under construction, was supposed to be capable of transmitting a 250,000 volt current. Construction was being hastened which indicates that the project carried a high priority. Later I heard rumors that the project was being speeded up by the new industrial cooperation with Western Germany. I saw this because

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SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

**CLASSIFICATION** SECRET//NOFORN//NF [REDACTED]

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